

## RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

and on the political and economic situation of their district through the intermediation of the provincial committee.

- (6) A local committee must be composed of a secretary and of two directors who will call party meetings. A certain number of intelligent members shall be designated to organize other groups in the region.
- (7) The organization of the sections in the region shall be analogous to that of urban groups.

*Signed:* Haidar Khan

Seal: Central Committee of the Communist party of Persia Adalat.<sup>19</sup>

The above document, somewhat verbose in its phraseology, reveals the far-reaching ambition and hope that the party will play its due role in Iran. As a matter of fact, at the time when these instructions were written, the prospects for revolution looked bright in Iran. The Gilan Republic enjoyed virtual independence from the central government and could serve as a lever for the further spread of revolution. The unfortunate Anglo-Iranian Treaty was being denounced by practically everybody in Iran, and the prevailing climate in politics was decidedly anti-British. The Soviet government was on the point of executing a bold propaganda maneuver by formally renouncing old tsarist privileges. The disruption of economic life in Iran as the result of the war and the suspension of normal trade with Russia had produced great unemployment and discontent among the masses. This induced the Soviet leaders to cherish fond hopes for an early radical change in Iran. In September, 1920, Haidar Khan participated in the Congress of the Peoples of the East in Baku and, together with Sultan-zadeh,<sup>20</sup> actively represented the Communist party of Iran. In those days of enthusiasm no attempt was made to conceal the fact that the Russian and

Iranian Communist parties had an organizational link with each other. Sultan-zadeh, as mentioned earlier, could combine without embarrassment the functions of an Iranian party representative and a responsible official of the Moscow Foreign Commissariat.

To Sultan-zadeh we owe, perhaps, more frank information about the early activities of the party than to any other source. In his book *Sowemennaya Persya* ("Contemporary Persia"), published in Mos-

(8) Ducrocq, *op. cit.* pp. 144-145. Reproduced from French by permission of the publisher, Presses Universitaires de France.

(9) For the identity of Sultan-zadeh, see p. 224.